



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

AND

**SANITARY INSPECTOR**

FOR THE

**WEOBLEY RURAL DISTRICT.**

---

**1937**

---

ISSUED JUNE, 1938.

AREA MEDICAL OFFICE,

LEOMINSTER.

13th June, 1938.

*To the Chairman and Members,  
Weobley Rural District Council.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1937. The Report is compiled in accordance with Circular No. 1650 of the Ministry of Health. It is rather a fuller report than usual although not a survey report.

The Vital Statistics for the year are quite satisfactory. In housing a considerable amount of work has been done under the Housing of Rural Workers Acts, but, I would draw your attention to the remarks in the body of my report on the building of new houses.

I wish to acknowledge the work done by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E. Lewis, during my appointment as Medical Officer of Health.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

DAVID G. ANDERSON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

### *Medical Officer of Health:*

DAVID G. ANDERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Appointed October, 1936).

Area Medical Office, Leominster. (Tel. No. : Leominster 95).

### *Sanitary Inspector:*

EVAN LEWIS (Cert. Royal San. Institute).

(Appointed 1915),

Church House, Weobley. (Tel. No. : Weobley 19).

### *Clerical Staff—Area Medical Office:*

J. J. ADAMS.

## DUTIES OF PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Medical Officer of Health, who is restricted from private practice, is Medical Officer of Health for six other county districts and Assistant County Medical Officer. In this latter capacity he carries out the medical inspection of the children at Kinnersley School, otherwise he has no routine county duties in this district. Close contact however is maintained with the clinical officers of the County Council responsible for the school medical and the tuberculosis services.

The Sanitary Inspector is half-time, the other portion of his time being allocated to his duties as relieving officer. He does not have any private work.

The clerk at the Area Medical Office is available for both District and County work.

## STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area—in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49,472
Population—Census, 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,133
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-year 1937	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,641
Number of Private Families (Census, 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,586
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,630
Number of structurally separate dwellings occupied (Census, 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,652
Rateable Value— £18,100.									
Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£89 6s. 0d.									

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The district is purely an agricultural one and the population is scattered. The wage and rent levels are low.

## EXTENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

Unemployment has increased during the last five or six years in common with other agricultural districts, and there has been an increase in the number of men who are employed casually instead of permanently. The Unemployment Assistance Board has mitigated the effects to a great extent.

### *Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year:—*

Total M. F.					
Live Births	Legitimate	85	35	50	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the est. res. pop. ... 15.60
	Illegitimate	3	0	3	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
		88	35	53	
Still births	... ..	3	2	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 32.97
Deaths	... ..	74	40	34	Death Rate per 1,000 of the est. res. pop. ... 13.12
					Standardised Death Rate 10.50

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

			DEATHS.	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still births)
No. 29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil	Nil
No. 30.	Other Puerperal Causes		Nil	Nil
Total			Nil	Nil

### Death Rate of infants under one year of age:—

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	45
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	47
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths—From Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	5
From Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
From Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
From Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	1
Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment	...	...	...	...	Nil

### *Chief Statistics for England and Wales for the year 1937, compared with those for Weobley Rural District.*

		Rate per 1,000 pop.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	Maternal Mort. per 1,000 total births.		
		Live Births.	Deaths, all causes.	Deaths under 1 yr. of age.	Puer. Sepsis	Others.
England and Wales	...	14.9	12.4	58	0.94	2.17
Weobley Rural District		15.60	*13.12	45	Nil	Nil

\* The Standardised Death Rate is 10.50.



# GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

**Staff.**—See beginning of report.

## Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations are made at the County and City Public Health Laboratory, County Offices, Bath Street, Hereford. These examinations are carried out free of charge to the County Districts, which is of great value. All results are communicated both to the private practitioner and the area medical officer of health so that action may be taken as promptly as possible. Special examinations, such as virulence tests in Diphtheria are carried out at Birmingham or Bristol University Laboratories.

The following examinations were made at the County Laboratory during the year:—

			Positive.	Negative.	Total.
For Diphtheria	...	...	4	42	46
For Tuberculosis	...	...	0	1	1
Other Examinations	...	...	0	0	0

## Ambulance Facilities.

There is no ambulance, public or voluntary, in the district. A satisfactory service is given by the voluntarily maintained ambulances of the British Red Cross Society at Hereford and Leominster and of the St. John Ambulance Association at Kington. No contribution is made by this Authority.

The County Council maintains its own ambulance for tuberculosis cases at the Nieuport Sanatorium.

Infectious diseases are dealt with by the Hereford Rural District Council ambulance under the agreement for the treatment of these diseases.

## Nursing in the Home.

This is carried out as regards non-infectious diseases by the various nursing associations. Nurse-midwives are employed, the associations being paid by the County Council for the midwifery, school medical, child welfare and tuberculosis work of the nurses. No complaints of inadequacy have been received. The following are the associations working in the district with the villages served:—

Almeley and Eardisley:—Almeley, Kinnersley, Sarnesfield.

Canon Pyon:—Canon Pyon, Birley, King's Pyon.

Dilwyn:—Dilwyn, Stretford.

Pembridge:—Eardisland.

Upper Wyese:—Letton, Garnons, Brobury, Staunton-on-Wye, Moccas, Byford, Bishopstone, Bridge Sollars, Mansel Gamage, Preston, Monnington, Blakemere.

Weobley and Mansel Lacey:—Mansel Lacey, Norton Canon, Brinsop, Wormisley, Yazor, Weobley.

There is no provision for the nursing in the home of cases of infectious disease.

### Treatment Centres and Clinics.

There are none provided by the Authority. Child Welfare Centres are maintained at Weobley and Dilwyn by voluntary committees, the County Council providing the medical officer and a subsidy.

The Tuberculosis Dispensaries at Hereford, Leominster and Kington are utilised according to the dwelling place of the patient.

The nearest clinic for the treatment of Venereal Disease is the Public Assistance Institution at Hereford.

The Orthopædic Clinic at Hereford, maintained by the British Red Cross Society, is available for patients from this district. This clinic works in conjunction with the Shropshire Orthopædic Hospital.

### Hospitals.

There are no hospitals maintained by this Authority.

Sick beds are provided at the Weobley Public Assistance Institution of the County Council.

The Hereford General Hospital and Victoria Eye Hospital, and the Cottage Hospitals at Leominster and Kington serve the district.

The Nieuport Sanatorium (County Council) for Pulmonary Tuberculosis is situated in the parish of Almeley.

The Infectious Disease Hospital is at Stretton Sugwas and the Smallpox Hospital at Bromyard. Both these hospitals are used under an agreement made with the Hereford Rural District Council.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER SUPPLIES.

No complaints of shortage were received during the year.

Most of the houses depend on wells which are often of the shallow type, though in some villages there is a partial piped supply. Notes on these latter are given below.

Weobley.—At the end of 1937 the scheme for this village was not completed. This scheme when completed will supply the whole of the village and a number of outlying houses with a copious supply of water. The supply is from springs near the Hurst Farm. There is a collecting chamber and reservoir of 7,900 gallons. The pumphouse reservoir in the village holds 9,500 gallons and the high level tank near the School 12,000 gallons. There is thus good storage capacity. The flow of water from the springs is about 600 gallons per hour.

Staunton-on-Wye.—The Jarvis Charity provides a piped supply to its own buildings with one public stand-pipe.

Mansell Lacy.—The Foxley Estate provides a piped supply to all the larger houses and most of the cottages, there is also one stand-pipe.

Mansell Gamage.—Water is piped from a spring to the roadside, this provides a supply for two or three cottages.

Yazor.—The Foxley Estate provides a piped supply to farms and houses. There are two sources, one by pump and the other from a spring.



Dilwyn.—The Garnstone Estate has piped a supply from a spring to a central stand-pipe in the village (in disrepair).

Letton.—There is a pipe from a spring to a tap in the centre of the village.

Eardisland.—There is no piped supply. Remarks are made under Drainage and Sewerage.

There are public wells at Weobley, Almeley and Birley.

The number of samples of water submitted to analysis during the year was 33, and a summary of the results is given in the table:—

Method of Examination.	Pure.	Polluted.	Doubtful	Total.
Chemical ...	10	3	5	18
Bacteriological ...	3	10	2	15
	<hr/> 13	<hr/> 13	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 33

The samples were examined at the County Laboratory, some waters were submitted to both bacteriological and chemical tests and some to one only. More than one sample was taken in several cases.

Where the water was shown to be polluted remedial measures were undertaken, no formal action was required in any case during the year.

Where grants are being considered under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts the provision of a pure water supply is insisted upon.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The only Parish which has a main drainage system is that of Weobley. The drainage from the whole village is conveyed to a large tank and thence over a coke filter. The flow however is continuous and the tank is excessively large so that the effluent is "septic." There is also provision for land treatment. The system prevents gross nuisance but does not give an ideal effluent. With the installation of a piped water supply, this system will require very careful watching.

The village of Eardisland presents a very serious problem as there is no main drainage. Soakaways are in use and filth is dug into the gardens. The subsoil is of gravel and most of the water supply is from shallow wells. Either a water or sewage scheme will have to be considered and preferably the former. A sewerage scheme with disposal works will be difficult to provide at an economic cost owing to the absence of fall.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

There is a public tip at Weobley and refuse is collected periodically by the Parish Council. During the year the old tip was abandoned and properly covered and a new tip brought into use.

There is no other provision (under this Council) for scavenging in the district.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are no closely built areas in the district but the pit privy is gradually being abolished and conversion is always insisted on when alterations or repairs to premises are asked for.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The Sanitary Inspector's report is given below, and includes his comments on certain matters.

REPORT under Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:—

INSPECTIONS UNDER.	No. of Inspections.	Informal Notices Served.	Statutory Notices Served.	Notices complied with.
Housing (1936) Act ...	170	35	2	20
Housing (Public Health Acts) ...		3	—	3
Workshops and Factories ...	110	10	—	10
Cowsheds and Dairies ...	290	24	—	24
Bakehousts ...	30	3	—	3
Slaughterhouses ...	150	4	—	4
Schools ...	24	4	—	4
Water Supplies ...	48	10	—	10
Infectious Diseases ...	36	2	—	2
Nuisances (Complaints) ...	33	10	—	10
Hop-pickers' Quarters ...	48	6	—	6

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Cases inquired into ...	12
Number of visits in connection with notifications ...	36
Premises (other than Schools) fumigated ...	6
Schools fumigated ...	Nil
Lots of Clothing, etc., disinfected ...	4

### MODE OF DISINFECTION.

(a) HOUSES—Formalin lamps and liquid spraying.

(b) BEDDING—Formalin gas, or disinfectant (at Sanatorium belonging to County Council).

### WATER SUPPLIES.

Samples taken and submitted for analysis.

Wells ...	33
Wells Closed ...	Nil
Wells cleansed ...	12
Wells sunk ...	2



## HOUSE DRAINS.

New drains laid.

New Houses	...	...	...	...	4				
Old Houses	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	..	18
Drains relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drains cleansed, trapped or ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
New sinks and drainage provided.									
New Houses	...	...	...	...	4				
Old Houses	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	..	16
Drains examined or tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Inspection chambers built	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18

## WATER CLOSETS.

Additional provided.

New Houses	...	...	...	...	0
Old Houses	...	...	...	...	6
TOTAL					6
Repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	3
Provided with cisterns	...	...	...	...	6

## PRIVIES.

Converted to water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Converted to pail or chemical closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

## PAIL CLOSETS.

Erected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Converted to water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Disposal of contents from pail or privy closets.—Buried or dug into gardens. No collection by local authority.										

## BAKEHOUSES.

Number in district	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Defects found	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Nature.

Action taken.

Remedied.

Whitewashing required

Informal Notice.

Yes.

None of the bakeries provide wrapped bread.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150

There is no public abattoir in the district.

## DAIRIES.

(Other than in connection with cowsheds).

Number on register	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Premises deleted from register	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

The above Dairyman purchases his milk from an Accredited Supply and retails it to Cottagers and also supplies two Schools. It is a good thing that this Accredited Milk is used in this way instead of as formerly being sent to a factory.

## DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Number on register	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59

The premises, cleanliness, and methods of production have greatly improved of recent years.

## FATORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Bakers	...	...	...	...	4	Harness Makers and					
Blacksmiths and						Saddlers	...	...	...	1	
Wheelwrights		...	...	...	18	Motor Garages		...	...	3	
Builders and Contractors	...				3	Boot Repairers, etc.,	...		...	4	
						Carpenters	...	...	...	11	
Number of Inspections of Factories							...	...	...	2	
Number of Inspections of Workshops							...	...	...	108	
										TOTAL	110

10 defects found, all remedied.

## SHOPS ACTS, 1912-1936.

No action was found necessary during the year.

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

				Found to be infested.	Disinfested.
(1) (a) Council Houses	...	...	...	0	0
(b) Other Houses	...	...	...	0	0
TOTAL				0	0

- (2) Methods employed for freeing infested houses from bugs.  
Liquid Spraying.—Zaldecide and Lawvercide.
- (3) Methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses. Liquid spraying of furniture, bedding, etc. No steam disinfecter available.
- (4) Whether work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority or by a contractor.  
Local Authority.

## HOUSING.

### NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR:—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
(b) With State assistance under Housing Acts:—										
(i) By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

### ACTION WITH REGARD TO EXISTING HOUSES.

#### 1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	48
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	170
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	45
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	45
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	3
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	10

#### 2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	18
---	-----	----

#### 3. Action taken under Statutory Powers during the year:—

##### (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 11 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	—
---	-----	---



(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
(d) As to Ministry of Health's Circular 1650, Proceedings taken	
4. Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding:—	
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year	8
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	8
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	40
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding during the year	12
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	14
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	83
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after local authority have taken steps for abatement of overcrowding	

## OVERCROWDING.

The position is similar to that existing in the 1936 Report.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.—Routine inspections of farms and dairies.  
Examination for bacterial content—Accredited Milks only.  
Examination for Tubercle Bacilli—None by Local Authority.

## MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

Two persons have procured licenses for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk and five persons for the production of Accredited Milk under the County Council. The inspection of the premises and the taking of samples are undertaken on behalf of the County Council.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Total Number of Carcases Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	725
Beasts.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.			
135	20	450	120			

		ENTIRE CARCASSES.	PARTS OF CARCASSES AND ORGANS.		
		Tuberculosis.	Other conditions.	Tuberculosis.	Other conditions.
Beasts	...	—	—	—	3
Calves	...	—	—	—	—
Sheep	...	—	—	—	—
Pigs	...	—	—	—	—

METHOD OF INSPECTION—in accordance with Memo. 62/Foods.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, are well observed by all meat traders. Notice of slaughtering is given in every instance—a card system being in operation. Co-operation exists in giving effect to the various requirements of the Meat Regulations.

No Meat Marketing Scheme under Part III. of the Regulations is in operation.

E. LEWIS,  
C.R.S.I.

Weobley.

## SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary Conditions are dealt with in the Report for 1935.

CLOSURES:—

Almeley	...	...	...	16-12-37—23-12-37.	Mumps.
Blakemere	...	...	...	23-11-37—10-12-37.	Mumps.
Byford	...	...	...	11-1-37—15-1-37.	Influenza.
Eardisland	...	...	...	12-1-37—18-1-37.	Mumps.
				1-2-37—5-2-37.	Influenza.
King's Pyon	...	...	...	9-2-37—5-3-37.	Influenza.
Kinnersley	...	...	...	1-2-37—26-2-37.	Influenza.
Letton	...	...	...	20-1-37—29-1-37.	Influenza.
Moccas	...	...	...	25-1-37—5-3-37.	Influenza and Chickenpox.
Norton Canon	...	...	...	20-1-37—29-1-37.	Influenza.
Weobley	...	...	...	20-1-37—29-1-37.	Influenza.

## HOUSING.

The full statistics are given in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

The new cases of overerowding became so by natural increase in the population and abatement has been secured by movement of persons and families out of the dsitric. It is probable that there may be undetected eases of overerowding as in scattered rural areas striet supervision is not possible without augmentation of the staff.

There have been no houses built by this Council at any time, but by use of the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, many cottages have been reconditioned. Grants have only been refused where it was felt that the site of the cottage was inaccessible or that it was subject to flooding or the structure of the cottage would not bear the additional strain of heightened walls and the like.

A part time architect is employed by the Couneil. All specifications are subject to his approval and in the majority of the cases he has actually prepared the specifications. This has undoubtedly facilitated the work as otherwise a large number of applicants are deterred by the necessity of preparing full plans and specifications.

In dealing with the houses under the Housing Act, 1936; as many can be used for other purposes without endangering health, undertakings not to allow them to be used for human habitation have frequently been accepted. This is due to most of the cottages being situate at a distance from other dwellings.

With the new susidy it is hoped that the Council will give consideration to the building of houses for the abatement of overcrowding and the replacement of unfit houses.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year 22 notifieations of infections disease were received, which is the same number as last year. The diseases are shown in the table, the additional case was one of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

### Scarlet Fever.

The one case of the disease was malignant in type and death occurred within 96 hours of the onset. No source was traced.

### Diphtheria.

There were six eases of this disease compared with two in 1936.

Three cases occurred in one house, two being return eases, the child returning from hospital developing an infective ctorrhœa

One case had no clinical signs of diphtheria and virulence tests proved negative.

The other two cases were in female adults aged 56 and 65 years, and the type of infection was very mild—no virulence tests were carried out.



Influenza.

In common with the rest of the country there was a considerable incidence of Influenza in the early part of the year. Notifications of Pneumonia numbered eleven as against eight in 1936.

Mumps.

As shown by notifications from the schools, this disease was prevalent in the district with an increase in the latter part of the year.

Measles.

This disease was much less prevalent than in 1936.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)  
during 1937.

CASES NOTIFIED.															
Disease.	All ages.	Under 1 yr.	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Cases and ad. to over. H'p.	T'tl Dts.	
Scarlet Fever ....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	
Diphtheria .....	6	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	4	—	
Ac. Primary Pneumonia	9	1	1	2	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	2	
Ac. Influenzal Pneumonia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	
Erysipelas .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Puerperal Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Total ...	21	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	—	6	—	3	3	6	3

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

During 1937 five cases from the District were admitted to the Credenhill Isolation Hospital. No cases have been refused admission but, on occasion we have had to wait while it was ascertained whether there was a vacant bed.

The present arrangement is that the Hospital is owned and worked by the Hereford Rural District, which also rents the old Bromyard Isolation Hospital as a Smallpox Hospital. This district retains two beds, at a retaining fee of £15 per bed. The Councils are only entitled to have the number of patients in hospital for which they retain beds. The only two diseases, other than Smallpox, in the agreement are Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, moreover they must not be complicated on admission by either having been in contact with or, even more important, by being actual sufferers from some other infectious disease. The hospital authorities have always, but as an act of grace, taken in other infections such as Typhoid Fever, Cerebro-Spinal Fever, and the like. They have, also, not insisted on the number of patients being limited and as many as six cases have been in hospital from one District at one time. No attempt has been made to obtain extra payment for these cases, maintenance charges being the same as for those cases covered by the retaining fee.

The facts are quite definite as regards the present arrangements.

(a) The number of beds available under the agreement for each authority is inadequate.

(b) The diseases treated under the agreement are too limited. The inability to obtain accommodation for complicated cases of measles, whooping cough and influenza was mentioned in last year's report.

The use of a common hospital has proved its worth in more beds being available for a given authority at a given time than would have been the case if provision had been made in a small hospital for that authority only.

The importance of having definite arrangements for the treatment of all infectious diseases cannot be overstressed. Delay through having to find or improvise accommodation may seriously jeopardise the chances of recovery of the patient.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of 1936 there were fourteen cases on the Register. Two cases were added (both Pulmonary) and three were removed.

Age Period.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & upwd.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0

There have been no deaths of non-notified cases. One death transferred in from London was not on the register.

## ADULTERATION OF FOOD, ETC.

The administration of these acts and regulations is carried out by the County Council through the police.

## CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

There are no laboratories carrying out such work in the district. The bacteriological and other examination of food stuffs in cases of suspected food poisoning would be dealt with under the Ministry of Health's scheme.

## NUTRITION.

Teaching by talks in the Infant Welfare Centres (in addition to individual advice) has been carried out. At school medical inspections the teachers are requested to give their views on the feeding of the children and general questions, such as the need for iodised salt in the prevention of goitre, are discussed.

## HEALTH EDUCATION.

Talks are given by the Medical Officer of Health at clubs, Women's Institutes, etc., on request.

### PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

The County Council carry out all the work under this heading. Your Medical Officer of Health as Assistant County Medical Officer arranges for the treatment of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

In the Annual Report for 1936 it was advised that hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease other than Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever was required and this would apply to cases where complications involving the eyes arose.

The cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum dealt with are summarised below.

CASES.					Total Blind- ness.	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated.		Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.		
	At home.	In hospital.				
Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—

### CAUSES OF DEATH, 1937.

	M.	F.
1. Scarlet Fever (3) ... ..	1	—
2. Influenza (6) ... ..	1	2
3. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System (9) ... ..	2	—
4. Cancer, Malignant Disease (13) ... ..	3	2
5. Diabetes (14) ... ..	1	1
6. Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc. (15) ... ..	1	3
7. Heart Disease (16) ... ..	9	11
8. Other Circulatory Diseases (18) ... ..	4	2
9. Bronchitis (19) ... ..	2	3
10. Pneumonia (all forms) (20) ... ..	2	—
11. Peptic Ulcer (22) ... ..	1	—
12. Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) (23) ... ..	1	—
13. Other Diseases of Liver, etc. (26) ... ..	—	1
14. Other Digestive Diseases (27) ... ..	2	—
15. Acute and Chronic Nephritis (28) ... ..	2	1
16. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc. (31) ... ..	1	2
17. Senility (32) ... ..	—	1
18. Suicide (33) ... ..	2	—
19. Other Violence (34) ... ..	2	1
20. Other Defined Causes (35) ... ..	3	4
Total 74	40	34

(Figures in brackets refer to the Registrar-General's Short List).



## INFANT MORTALITY.

The following deaths of children under 1 year of age occurred during the year. They were all legitimate.

Atelectasis	...	...	...	1	Male, 3 days.
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	1	Female, 3 days.
Gastro Enteritis	...	...	...	1	Male, 1 month.
Primary Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	Male, 2 months.

## ADOPTIVE LEGISLATION, ETC.

New Byelaws were adopted as follows:—

- (a) For the Housing of Hop-pickers, etc.
- (b) For New Buildings.



---

LEOMINSTER PRINTING CO., LTD

---